

**For Immediate Release:**

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*All Hallows' Eve 2013...*

**SIGHTINGS OF ZOMBIES, PRINCESSES and LITTLE MONSTERS  
EXPECTED ALONG GEORGIA'S ROADWAYS**

*Plan Ahead For Increased Vehicle and Pedestrian Traffic*

**THOMASTON, GA** – Each October, children and adults dress in their alter egos and parade down the streets of Cities and Towns all across Georgia in search of the “good” candy. This year, October 31<sup>st</sup> falls during the week on Thursday and many parents will be rushing home to get the kids ready for the night.

Practice some of the following tips so that you and your little pumpkin can enjoy a night on the town gathering sweets and treats.

Halloween pedestrian safety tips:

- Children should trick-or-treat and cross streets with an adult; look left, right and left again when crossing the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible
- Never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars
- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and choose face paint or make-up whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights in order to see better, as well as be seen by drivers.

If you are driving, be sure to follow these steps to protect children who are Trick-or-Treating:

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods and school zones. Children are excited and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Drive more slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and be sure to drive with your full headlights on so you can spot children from greater distances.
- Remember that costumes can limit children's visibility and they may not be able to easily see your vehicle.

Each year on October 31st people from all around the world celebrate Halloween. A favorite of children and those who like to tap into their “inner child”, Halloween is a day to dress up in costume, hand out

candy and try to frighten each other and ourselves with spooky stories. Like many holidays that are celebrated today, Halloween did not start off being celebrated in this manner – its origins have a history that started many centuries ago. Halloween is the United States' second largest commercial holiday, spending approximately \$6.9 billion a year.

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In FY 2012, Georgia DOT, the lead agency for the Georgia Unified Certification Program (GUCP), certified 531 new firms as disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs). GUCP certification provides firms with the chance to secure significant economic development opportunities with GDOT and other state and federal government agencies. Currently, there are 1,718 certified DBE firms in the GUCP directory.

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